

World Music for Guitar Performance

With Pre-Show Dinner Percussion Playshop Party

by Matthew Montfort (scalloped fretboard & fretless guitars)



Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Dinner Percussion Playshop: 6:30

World Music for Guitar Concert: 8:00

Peña Pachamama

1630 Powell near Union

San Francisco CA 94133

Tix: \$12 to \$39.95. Info: 415-646-0018

www.penapachamama.com

Ancient Future leader and world music for guitar pioneer Matthew Montfort will perform an after dinner concert on both the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar, and on a Godin Glissentar, an 11 string fretless guitar based on the oud.

There will be a 'Dinner Percussion Playshop Party' held before the show, in which Montfort will instruct and encourage the audience to perform simple rhythms from his book, *Ancient Traditions -- Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India*, using dinner utensils and body percussion. The playshop is open to anyone, regardless of musical background. The best playshop student(s) may be chosen to perform on a song with Matthew Montfort later in the evening.

There is a \$12 cover charge for admission to either the dinner percussion playshop party or the guitar concert, or \$14 if no food is ordered. The cover charge for both the dinner percussion playshop party and guitar concert is \$20, or \$24 if no food is ordered. For \$39.95, a special dinner is available including an entree, drink and admission to both the dinner percussion playshop party and the guitar concert.

"This unusual guitar album brings together world instruments to complement the scalloped fretboard guitar. 'In late 1978 luthier Ervin Somogyi carved out the wood between the frets so that the pads of Montfort's fingers touch only the strings, reducing friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar.' I must admit that sometimes ragas played by guitar players seem to wander on forever, changing a note here and there and weaving a kind of slow, hypnotic journey. However, this guitar work is stunning, intricate and wonderfully melodic. If you are looking for good listening and something different for your CD shelf, this is it." — J.W. McClure, VICTORY REVIEW ACOUSTIC MUSIC MAGAZINE

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RIFFS



**MATTHEW MONTFORT'S
"PURPLE RAGA"**

"IN MY JUNIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL I made a conscious decision to devote myself to music that fused ideas from various world traditions," says Ancient Future's Matthew Montfort. To that end, Montfort attended the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, California, in 1977, and studied with South Indian vina master K.S. Subramanian. He also modified his guitar to better accommodate the techniques he was learning. "The vina has frets similar to a scalloped-fretboard guitar," explains Montfort. "And Subramanian taught me many techniques of pulling the



strings across the frets to create the various note-bending ornaments, which are often combined in very involved ways." Sometimes, the various world traditions Montfort works with include his own. "I began to think about the intersection between raga and the music of Jimi Hendrix after seeing a photograph of Jimi in the front row of an Indian music concert, his mouth open in awe of what he was experiencing," he says. "Then one day a student of mine was having difficulty improvising over the chord changes in "Purple Haze," and I had the idea that the techniques learned by studying

Indian music would help my student to improvise more effectively. Visit guitarplayer.com to watch Montfort demonstrating the raga he derived from the "Purple Haze" solo, and read the accompanying lesson. —Barry Cleveland

So what's on your mind?
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